



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

October 20, 2005

For immediate release

- 1. Approaching deadline for environmental awards**
- 2. Manure management can protect water quality, control costs**
- 3. DNR TO highlight storm water management sites**
- 4. Water quality news direct to your inbox**
- 5. DNR enforcement actions**

APPROACHING DEADLINE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Des Moines -- The deadline is quickly approaching for the 2005 Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards. This premier environmental awards program, sponsored by Governor Vilsack and the State of Iowa, recognizes leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's water, land and air.

Awards will be given for overall environmental excellence and special recognition in water quality, waste management, energy efficiency/renewable energy, air quality and habitat restoration/development.

Categories for the awards include:

- Agriculture (operation, farm or other ag-related business or organization)
- Community/Local Government
- Small Business or Industry (up to 200 employees)
- Large Business or Industry (more than 200 employees)
- Institution/Public Sector Facility (hospital, college, school, etc.)
- Service/Civic/Nonprofit Organization (Kiwanis, Lions Club, Pheasants Forever, etc.)

The awards are sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Economic

Development, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

The application deadline is November 4, 2005. To obtain an application, go to the Web site www.iowadnr.com/other/ee/index.html, or contact: Jill Cornell, Department of Natural Resources (515) 281-0879; e-mail: Jill.Cornell@dnr.state.ia.us.

For more information, contact Jill Cornell at (515) 281-0879.

#

MANURE MANAGEMENT CAN PROTECT WATER QUALITY, CONTROL COSTS

DES MOINES —Managing manure resources for next year's crop can help producers control fertilizer costs and protect water quality according to the DNR.

"Make the most of your nutrients to cut your input costs and to prevent excess nutrients from washing into rivers and streams," said Lyle Asell, the DNR's special assistant for agriculture. "This year that's more important than ever with soaring fertilizer costs."

Asell advises producers to take credit for nitrogen carried over from legume crops and other sources when planning manure application, and to use their manure management plans.

"It all comes down to rate, method and timing," said Jeremy Klatt, agronomist and DNR environmental specialist. "It's important to test manure for nutrient content and to use the manure management plan as a tool so that producers know how much nitrogen they are putting on."

He adds that obviously lower rates can be spread on more acres and that injecting manure can reduce the loss of nitrogen due to volatilization.

When it comes to timing, Klatt said the earlier in the fall that the nitrogen in manure is applied, the more likely that it will be converted to nitrate and leach out of the root zone and into groundwater or tile lines before next year's crop can get it. Because much of the nitrogen in liquid swine manure is in the ammonium form, it can be converted into nitrate and lost (similar to anhydrous ammonia).

Klatt recommends waiting until soil temperatures drop below 50 degrees, because cooler soils slow the conversion from ammonium to nitrate.

Accounting for all sources of nitrogen fertilizer can help producers reduce their need for additional commercial fertilizer, Klatt said.

Producers can check the Iowa State University or Iowa Manure Management Action Group's Web site for more information. Click on: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/pubs.html>, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1811.pdf> or <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/IPM69A.pdf>.

For more information, contact Jeremy Klatt, Mason City DNR Field Office, at (641) 424-4073.

#

DNR TO HIGHLIGHT STORM WATER MANAGEMENT SITES

DES MOINES -- The DNR is looking for Iowa locations that demonstrate best management practices (BMP) that improve storm water quality.

"We plan to share information on these sites with anyone interested in reducing pollutants such as oil, grease and salts running off streets, and nutrients that run off lawns," said Bill Ehm, DNR's storm water specialist.

The DNR will develop a statewide inventory of good examples such as rain gardens, detention basins or permeable paving that help rainwater soak into the soil. Using the soil as an absorbent mat will reduce the quantity of storm water and improve its quality before it reaches a local stream or lake.

"We're asking educators, residents, businesses and others to go online to nominate sites for this inventory," Ehm said.

People can nominate a site and submit information about it through the DNR Web site at <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/stormwater/index.html> by clicking on the "survey box."

Once developed the inventory will allow anyone interested in installing a practice to find out more about the practice, its design, construction cost and location. The inventory will be searchable by practice and by county. For example, a developer interested in putting rain gardens or porous paving in a new development could search for those practices and find a nearby demonstration site.

"We expect the Web site to help match people up with a demonstration area that they can visit to learn more about these water quality improving practices," said Ehm.

For more information, contact Bill Ehm, DNR storm water specialist, at william.ehm@dnr.state.ia.us or (515) 281-4701.

#

WATER QUALITY NEWS DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX

DES MOINES — Up-to-date water quality information from the DNR can now be delivered directly to your e-mail inbox.

“With this new service we can provide timely information that goes beyond rules and forms; information that will help the regulated public and their consultants meet environmental requirements,” said Chuck Corell, chief of the DNR water quality bureau.

Readers can receive information on the following topics:

The Water Quality newsletter offers information to those actively engaged in regulatory activities regarding NPDES permitting, wastewater facility construction, water quality standards, flood plain permitting and wastewater operator certification. The Water Quality listserv will offer regulatory news, program updates and technical guidance.

The Animal Feeding Operations newsletter offers regulatory news, program updates and technical guidance for owners and operators of animal feeding operations or those who are actively engaged in regulatory activities surrounding animal feeding operations.

For people actively engaged in the operation and regulatory compliance of Iowa's public drinking water systems, the Water Supply newsletter provides regulatory news, program updates and technical guidance to public water supply owners, water supply operators and consultants.

To subscribe to any of the above lists, visit www.iowadnr.com/water/listserv.html.

For more information, contact Lori McDaniel at (515) 281-8094 or lori.mcdaniel@dnr.state.ia.us.

###

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR WATERSHED IMPROVEMENTS

DES MOINES — Nearly \$5 million in watershed improvement grants are now available for local watershed improvement committees and soil and water conservation districts.

The Iowa Legislature appropriated five million dollars to fund the new initiative through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS-DSC). A 15-member Watershed Improvement Review Board, including a DNR representative, was created earlier this year to review and select the applications for funding projects aimed at improving Iowa water.

“This initiative will help us to continue making progress on restoring impaired waters in Iowa,” said Bernie Hoyer, special water quality assistant to the DNR director. “Improved water quality means cleaner drinking water, improved recreation opportunities and rural economic development, and a better habitat for aquatic life.”

The grants will be used to identify water quality concerns and initiate local efforts to improve water quality.

“Many of the most successful watershed projects are those that are locally-led, because the local people care about their stream or lake and want to be involved,” said Hoyer.

The deadline for receiving applications is Nov. 30, 2005. Applications are available at: www.agriculture.state.ia.us/TWIRB.htm.

For more information, contact Bernie Hoyer of the DNR at (515) 281-7247 or Jerry Neppel of IDALS at (515) 281-3599.

#

DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions in September and October 2005, unless otherwise noted. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

Administrative Orders

- Sunray Pork, Ltd., dba Tweedie Finisher Farm, of Iowa Falls, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan (MMP) and annual compliance fee, and pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regard to failure to submit an updated MMP and fee.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Russell Knobbe, dba Knobbe Brothers Feedlot, of Carroll, agreed in an amendment to a 2004 administrative order to cease the open burning of tires and solid waste and pay a \$1,000 penalty.
- The City of Shenandoah agreed in a settlement agreement to pay \$1,000 and the DNR agreed to dismiss with prejudice all enforcement actions against the city. The settlement agreement is in regards to a 2004 administrative order for alleged solid waste and air quality violations.
- William Butterfield, of Mason City, agreed in a consent amendment to earlier orders to pay a \$2,400 penalty. In all other respects, the earlier administrative orders, regarding solid waste and air quality violations, remain in full force and effect.
- Ag Processing, Inc., of Emmetsburg, agreed in a consent order to a compliance schedule, to submit and fully implement a facility plan, and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The consent order is

in regard to wastewater violations.

- Harlen Clasen, of Rock Rapids, agreed in a settlement agreement to work with the DNR to establish and comply with a schedule for the removal of all solid waste and recyclable materials from his property. The DNR agreed to rescind the \$10,000 penalty assessed in the original 2003 administrative order regarding solid waste and air quality violations.
- Stewart Construction, Inc., of Lyon County, agreed in a settlement agreement to pay \$1,000 in full and final satisfaction of the requirements of a 2004 administrative order regarding solid waste violations.
- Tschiggfrie Excavating Co., of Dubuque, agreed in a settlement agreement to pay \$5,000 in full and final satisfaction of the requirements of a 2004 administrative order regarding wastewater violations.
- Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital, of Council Bluffs, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to air quality construction permit violations.

Rescinded Orders

The following orders have been rescinded by the DNR:

- Patrick M. Pinney Contractors, dba Pat Pinney Construction of Sioux City: A 2004 order regarding air quality violations for failing to submit an asbestos demolition notification is rescinded. Pinney was not required to submit the notification, as he did not demolish the building in question.

For more information, contact Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131 or Jessie.Brown@dnr.state.ia.us.